

Appl. No. 09/937,858
Amdt. dated July 5, 2005
Reply to Office action of April 5, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4, and 6-19 were present in the application. Claim 18 is amended herein. Claim 15 is canceled. Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16, 17 and 19 have been allowed.

Claim 15 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c). Claim 15 has been canceled herewith to remove this objection.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Murakami U.S. patent 6,082,911. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The test pattern of Murakami includes a vertical bar which is divided into upper and lower portions 43 and 44. The upper portion 43 is printed both in forward and backward directions of the print head whereas the lower portion 44 is printed only in forward direction (see FIG. 3, FIG. 6B of Murakami). This test pattern is to check whether there is any displacement in position of dots printed in forward and backward directions (Column 17, lines 29-65 of Murakami).

Claim 18, amended herein to clarify that that the claimed invention is completely different in object, construction and function with respect to Murakami.

In Applicant's invention as recited in claim 18, the vertical bar as the predetermined pattern element of a test pattern to be printed is divided into a plurality of vertically

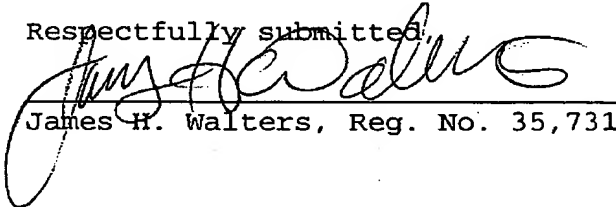
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aligned portions, each portion being divided into N groups of dots, and the vertically aligned recording elements of the head is divided into N vertically aligned groups. The n-th group of recording elements of the head is caused to print n-th group of dots in each portion of said vertical bar (see FIGS. 20(a) and (b) of the present application). The resultant printed test pattern with N being "4" is shown in FIG. 21(b). This method makes it possible to reduce horizontal positional deviations at upper and lower portions of the vertical bar caused by head skews or variations in head recording elements.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is neither anticipated by nor suggested by Murakami, given the above noted differences.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

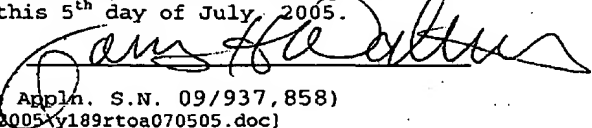
Respectfully submitted,


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